

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs starting on page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 19, to read as follows:

In designing the FFCV to withstand the loads placed thereon, certain factors should be considered. In this regard, in ~~co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/832,739 filed April 11, 2001~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,860,216 entitled "Flexible Fluid Containment Vessel" such factors are set forth in detail, along with possible materials for the fabric, its construction and possible coatings and methodology to apply to it to render the fabric impermeable, in addition to other features which may be desirable with regard to the FFCV. Accordingly, further discussion thereof will not be repeated herein rather reference is made to said application.

Also, the present device may have application with regard to the spiral formed FFCV as disclosed in ~~co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/908,877 filed July 18, 2001~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,675,734 entitled "Spiral Formed Flexible Fluid Containment Vessel".

In addition, reference is made to U.S. Patent No. 6,739,274 ~~Application Serial No. 09/921,617 filed August 3, 2001~~ entitled "End Portions for a Flexible Fluid Containment Vessel and a Method of Making the Same" which relates to possible construction of the end portions of the FFCV to which the present invention is directed to the particular configuration disclosed herein. Also, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/923,936 filed August 7, 2001 entitled "Coating for a Flexible Fluid Containment Vessel and a Method of Making the Same" discloses additional constructions for the fabric in addition to possible coatings therefore.

While the aforesaid patent applications discuss the various forces important in the design of the FFCV, the present application is directed toward a particular means for closing the bow and/or stern of an FFCV. The present invention envisions a tapered structure so as to reduce the

circumference to a manageable size by pleating or other means as disclosed in ~~application Serial Number 09/921,617~~U.S. Patent No. 6,739,274.

The FFCV 10 includes a tube 12 and end portions generally designated 14 for the bow and 16 for the stern (not shown in Figure 4). The construction shown allows one to convert a tube 12 into a cone shaped bow 14 and/or a cone shaped stern 16. Pleating, folding or other means disclosed in ~~Serial Number 09/921,617~~U.S. Patent No. 6,739,274 allows one to convert the end of the tube 12 into a smaller diameter. The pleats 18, for example, may be formed about the circumference of the tube 12 so as to allow for the end of the tube 12 to become tapered or having a reduced circumference as shown in Figure 4.